

# PEACE GAZETTE

Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center

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## While Washington Slept

By Mark Hertsgaard

Excerpted From the April 2006 Issue of Vanity Fair

Editor's Note: All emphasis added

No one can say for sure whether global warming caused Hurricane Katrina, which slammed into the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. But it certainly fit the pattern. The scientific rule of thumb is that one can never blame any one weather event on any single cause. The earth's weather system is too complex for that. Most scientists agree, however, that global warming makes extra-strong hurricanes such as Katrina more likely because it encourages hot oceans, a pre-condition of hurricane formation.

But most Americans heard nothing about Hurricane Katrina's association

with global warming. Media coverage instead reflected the views of the Bush administration—specifically, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which declared that the hurricane was the result of natural factors. An outcry from N.O.A.A.'s scientists led the agency to



backtrack from that statement in February 2006, but by then conventional wisdom was set in place. Post-Katrina New Orleans may eventually be remembered as the first major U.S. casualty of global warming, yet most Americans still don't know what hit us.

Sad to say, Katrina was the perfect preview of what global warming might look like in the 21st century. First, Katrina struck a city that was already below sea level—which is where rising waters could put many coastal dwellers in the years ahead. In 2001, the U.N.-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (I.P.C.C.), a peer-reviewed, international collaboration among thousands of scientists that is the world's leading authority on climate change, predicted that sea levels could rise as much as three feet by 2100. By coincidence, three feet is about how

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## World Peace and the Environment

By Bob Maxwell, Walnut Creek

What can world peace possibly have to do with the environment? At first glance, it might seem that the struggle for peace and concern for the environment are working at cross-purposes. After all, doesn't the struggle for peace entail closing the gap between the rich and poor nations of the Earth? And wouldn't that only increase the strain on the Earth's limited resources?

But this ignores the vast resources we currently waste preparing to murder each other on a grand scale. These resources could go a long way toward improving the lives of everyone on Earth if diverted into more constructive channels. Furthermore, one of the most serious pressures on the Earth's limited resources is runaway population growth. But as the plummeting rates of population growth in the most industrialized nations clearly suggest, the most effective way to curb popula-

tion growth is to make people rich (Malthus to the contrary, notwithstanding)!

At a deeper level, however, there is a very direct connection between increased international cooperation and our ability to intelligently manage our planet's fragile ecosystem. We are all part of an interdependent web that all life—including our own—depends upon for its very existence. The more scientific and technological advancements extend our control over the natural world, the more we disturb this web, and the more necessary it becomes to do so in accordance with a common plan.

Do we have the wisdom to substitute a plan of our own for the natural order of things? This is an obvious question to ask, but it ignores the fact that we and our natural propensity to meddle with the natural world are themselves part of the “natural order of things.”

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## Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center

The Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center works to build a more peaceful and just world through citizen involvement. To this end, we work to eliminate nuclear weapons, reduce militarism, heal the causes of violence such as racism and injustice, and promote nonviolent conflict resolution. We are a community-based organization focusing on education and action. The Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center is non-profit, tax-deductible organization, affiliated with Fellowship for Reconciliation. **Won't you join us!**

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## Think Global, Act Natural

By Tijn Touber

Excerpt from *Ode Magazine*, Issue 35

Evolutionary biologist Elisabet Sahtouris has a simple message: Evolution is not a life-and-death struggle in which only the fittest survive. She says there is a great deal missing in Darwin's theory, which for too long has been used to justify hunger, poverty and the continual devastation of the planet.

These are ideas that challenge typical thinking in the field of science, which is no surprise coming from a maverick like Sahtouris. At the age of 43, she walked away from her laboratory at the American Museum of Natural History in New York because the accepted Darwinian view of evolution had become

too restrictive for her.

And this is what she realized: Seventeenth-century philosopher René Descartes taught that nature works like machinery that can be understood and

dominated by humans. Darwin described a battleground among species that fought to survive at the expense of one another. As a result, domination and

competition have become a part of the modern world view—a view that feeds a great deal of misery on our planet because of our inability to see the bigger picture due to an emphasis on the separation between living things rather than the connection. Descartes and Darwin were misled, Sahtouris believes, as does a field of increasingly prominent fellow defectors—scientists,

(*"Think Global"* Continued on page 5)

\* Rise in per capita consumption in the U.S. since 1970: 62%  
\* Decrease in the quality of life in the U.S. since 1970, as measured by the Index of Social Health: 51%  
-- *All Consuming Passion* as quoted

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much New Orleans sank during the 20th century. That was because levees built to keep the Mississippi River from flooding also kept the river from depositing silt that would have replenished the underlying land mass, explains Mike Tidwell, the author of *Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast*. "You could say that in New Orleans we brought the ocean to the people," Tidwell adds, "which is pretty much what global warming will do to other cities in the future."

What's more, Katrina was a Category 5 hurricane, the strongest there is. Such extreme weather events will likely become more frequent as global warming intensifies, says the I.P.C.C. Yes, Katrina's winds had slowed to high-Category 3 levels by the time it made landfall, but it was the hurricane's storm surge that killed people—a surge that formed in the Gulf of Mexico when the storm was still Category 5. Thus,

Katrina unleashed 10 to 15 feet of water on a city that was already significantly below sea level.

Since roughly half the world's 6.5 billion people live near coastlines, a three-foot sea-level rise would be even more punishing overseas. Amsterdam, Venice, Cairo, Shanghai, Manila, and Calcutta are some of the cities most threatened. In many places the people and governments are too poor to erect adequate barriers—think of low-lying Bangladesh, where an estimated 18 million people are at risk—so experts fear that they will migrate to neighboring lands, raising the prospect of armed conflict. A Pentagon-commissioned study warned in 2003 that climate change could bring mega-droughts, mass starvation, and even nuclear war as countries such as China, India, and Pakistan battle over scarce food and water.

These are just some of the reasons why  
(*"Washington Slept"* Continued on page 4)

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## Going Local: Sustainable Solutions in the Bay Area

Interview with Aaron G. Lehmer, Bay Area Relocalize (BAR)

The *Peace Gazette* asked sustainability activist Aaron G. Lehmer of Bay Area Relocalize ([www.bayarearelocalize.org](http://www.bayarearelocalize.org); 415-613-4781) about an exciting new project that folks in the Bay Area are already working on to help restore ecologically sustainable and socially just communities.

**PG: Can you explain the connection between global warming and the U.S.'s dependence on fossil fuels.**

AL: 25% of the world's greenhouse gases are generated in the United States, over 80% of which is attributable to fossil fuel burning to produce electricity and power cars, trucks, and other vehicles. As the use of fossil fuels has escalated over the past century, so too has the atmospheric build-up of "greenhouse gases" – mainly consisting of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide – which trap the sun's heat in the earth's atmosphere. Consequently, global warming has become increasingly acute, leading to rising and warming waters and more frequent and intense hurricanes, tornadoes, and other storm systems. As one part of the solution, local production for local consumption obviates the need to ship materials and products large distances, thereby reducing transportation-related carbon dioxide emissions and other pollutants. This is particularly important considering that the transportation sector is the largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> and a near consensus of scientists believe that global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions need to be reduced 60-80% to have a possibility of stabilizing the climate. This will not occur without reconfiguring our economies and cities for much less transport and energy consumption.

**PG: Please define the concept of re-localization and how this can contribute to a more sustainable way of life.**

AL: Relocalization is the process through which a community reverts from ever-increasing dependence upon the global economic system back to local networks of economic interdependency. Relocalization brings production closer to consumption, reducing the need to rely on long supply chains and distant markets so that communities can largely provision themselves. Local production strengthens the local economy, creates worthwhile jobs, and increases local self-reliance.

Refocusing the economy locally also revitalizes the community, increasing camaraderie, cooperation, and support for local culture and a sense of place. Through BAR's various projects and programs, we're working to prepare communities with appealing – and workable – alternatives that demonstrate living sustainably within our landbase. To us, that's the essence of relocalization – getting away from the import-based, exploitation-centered basis of our dying way of life and viscerally reconnecting with our bioregion and one another.

**PG: What are some of the programs/activities that BAR is involved in to advance this?**

AL: Right now, BAR is focused on three projects:

**Localization Strategy Collaborative** - With interest growing in localization, the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies, the International Forum on Globalization, Redefining Progress, Post Carbon Institute, and BAR came together in early April to explore how we might work together to forward a comprehensive localization strategy for the 9-county Bay Area. On May 10, we jointly hosted a localization strategy summit at the Oakland Mayor's Office attended by over 60 nonprofit and green business leaders, food security analysts, renewable energy specialists, and several elected officials and public agency representatives. In the coming months, our collaborative will be coordinating working groups focused on enhancing the viability of local business enterprises, advancing various localization policy measures, and empowering communities and organizations working on localization efforts.

**Relocalization Assets Map** - BAR is performing an inventory of localization organizations and projects presently underway throughout the Bay Area. These efforts will be mapped, along with information on the scope of their activities, their relationship to localization, and full contact details. BAR envisions the map as a multi-purpose tool to connect localization organizers and advocates with one another, direct new volunteers to local initiatives and projects, and demonstrate the various activities that localization entails.

*(“Going Local” Continued on page 6)*

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*(“World Peace” Continued from page 1)*

The “natural order of things” is dynamic, not static. The world we see around us is not only orderly, but so ordered as to give rise to things that think. And it's natural for thinking things to use the knowledge of the laws of nature thinking gives them to adapt their environment to themselves rather than the other way around.

If we think of the natural world as an organic whole, what are we but the “brain” of the world—or, at the very least,

well on the way to becoming so? In the human body, the brain is the seat of consciousness in a way that the heart or lungs can never be—so much so that when my brain dies, I myself will be dead, no matter what condition my other organs are in. But that doesn't mean that I can or should ignore the health of my other organs. The more that advancements in science and technology make us the “brain” of the world, therefore, the more necessary it becomes to care for the rest of nature as we care for our own flesh. 🐘

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## Turn Off the TV

Excerpted from *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight* By Thom Hartmann, Three Rivers Press, 2004 (pgs 301-303)

We see people who are spiritually disconnected, living in boxes and driving in boxes, perhaps once a year going "out into nature" to get a brief taste of what was once our daily experience. These people seek escape. They sit in urban and suburban homes and feel miserable, not knowing why, experiencing anxiety and fear and pain that cannot be softened by drugs, TV, or therapy because they are afflicted with a sickness of the soul, not of the mind. They've become disconnected.

This disconnection has caused the world's dominant culture to become stuck in a stage of arrested development, more concerned with "me" and "now" than with being custodians of the future, in contrast to the way Older Culture peoples view the goal of day-to-day life and, indeed, the very meaning of life itself.

The primary "immature" cultural concept—"You are the most important person in the world"—is shouted at us daily through the TV, the primary spokesvehicle of our culture. The constant reinforcement of this message keeps our culture immature and prevents us from growing in maturity.

The reason for the persistence and intensity of these messages is simple: when people behave like children, wanting immediate gratification for

has been amplified by television into a culture-consuming monster. It works well for corporations and marketers in a "me-centered" world, but it distracts humans from the more mature view of making the world better for *everyone*.

Consumerism has largely subsumed even the churches, converting their holy days into orgies of consumption, and today far more people pursue happiness by buying new "things" than engaging in the rituals of any organized religion.

\* Percentage of Americans who agreed that buying and consuming is the American way of life in 1995: 89%

\* Percentage who agreed in 2004: 40%

-- *Yes! Magazine*, Summer

What I have seen over and over again is a qualitative change in adults and children when they remove television from their homes. The home quiets, the people become more centered and anchored, the real world is noticed.

their every desire, they are the ideal consumers. Only when we turn off the messages can we begin the process of maturing—and this is rarely done.

"Consumerism"—the idea of making your life better by getting something—

Turn off the TV, and sit quietly for just 10 or 15 minutes each day. Take another few minutes a day to walk outdoors. Your life will change for the better, and in that way you contribute to the healing of our planet. 🌱

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*("Washington Slept" Continued from page 2)*

David King wrote in *Science* in 2004, "Climate change is the most severe problem that we are facing today—more serious even than the threat of terrorism." King's comment raised hackles in Washington and led a top press aide to Tony Blair to try to muzzle him. But the science adviser tells me he "absolutely" stands by his statement. By no means does King underestimate terrorism; advising the British government on that threat, he says, "is a very important part of my job." But the hazards presented by climate change are so severe and far-reaching that, in his view, they overshadow not only every other environmental threat but every other threat, period.

"Take India," King says. "Their monsoon is a fact of life that they have developed their agricultural economy around. If the monsoon is down by 10 percent one year, they have massive losses of crops. If it's 10 percent over, they have massive flood

problems. [If climate change ends up] switching off the monsoon in India, or even changing it outside those limits, it would lead to massive global economic de-stabilization. The kind of situation we need to avoid creating is one where populations are so de-stabilized—Bangladesh being flooded, India no food—that they're all seeking alternative habitats. These, in our globalized economy, would be very difficult for all of us to manage."

The worst scenarios of global warming might still be avoided, scientists say, if humanity reduces its greenhouse-gas emissions dramatically, and very soon. The I.P.C.C. has estimated that emissions must fall to 60 percent below 1990 levels before 2050, over a period when global population is expected to increase by 37 percent and per-capita energy consumption will surely rise as billions of people in Asia, Africa, and South America strive to ascend from poverty.

Yet even if such a reduction were achieved, a significant rise in sea levels may be unavoidable. "It's getting harder and harder to say we'll avoid a three-foot sea-level rise, though it won't necessarily happen in this century," says Michael Oppenheimer, a professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton. Oppenheimer's pessimism is rooted in the lag effects of the climate system: oceans store heat for a century or longer before releasing it; carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for decades or longer before dissipating. According to King, even if humanity were to stop emitting carbon dioxide today, "temperatures will keep rising and all the impacts will keep changing for about 25 years."

The upshot is that it has become too late to prevent climate change; we can only adapt to it. This unhappy fact is not well understood by the general public; advo-

*("Washington Slept" Continued on page 7)*

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## An Inconvenient Truth

By Chad Saxelid, Concord

The disappointing truth about the popular documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, currently the third highest grossing theatrically released documentary, behind *Fahrenheit 9/11* and *March of the Penguins*, is that it devotes far more attention to “former future President of the United States” Al Gore than it does to its supposed subject matter, Global Warming. After its hyperbolic trailer (which made it look like a prequel to the Global Warming disaster thriller *The Day After Tomorrow*) promised me that *Truth* would be, “By far, the most terrifying film you will ever see,” (it was not) I was more than a little disappointed. Al Gore just isn’t that terrifying...unless you’re a staunch conservative, that is.

*Truth* is at its best when Mr. Gore, giving a lecture on the effects of Global Warming, is allowed to present his compelling evidence that industrial pollution has harmed Earth on an almost catastrophic level. But the potential end of the world as we know it does not seem to interest director Davis

Guggenheim (*Deadwood*). Again and again, the narrative of the documentary moves away from the topic of Gore’s lecture and focuses on Gore himself. Sometimes, such as when the former Vice President talks about the teacher that “discovered” Global



Warming in the 1950s, or his frustration at dealing with Washington insiders disinterested in the Global Warming issue, it helps to flesh out some of Gore’s lecture points, because it is on topic.

But there are far too many times when the documentary loses touch with its subject. Gore tells of how his sister died from lung cancer (the big irony being that Gore’s father grew tobacco) and

how the near death of his son changed his outlook on life. The connections these personal tragedies have to Gore’s public lecture are tenuous, at best, and poorly made. The worst of them is the utterly needless recap of the 2000 election. What is *that* doing in a documentary about Global Warming?

Those digressions take screen time that could have been better used exploring just what the viewer could do to help combat Global Warming. Instead, the “what you can do” recommendations are literally shuffled into the production credits, rolling across the screen while Melissa Etheridge belts out a rock ballad. The three that stood out for me were “buy energy efficient appliances,” “buy a hybrid car, if you can,” and, just because it was so inane, “call a radio program.”

So the environment is edging into the red zone, Al Gore got a raw deal, and the only thing I can do about it is buy better appliances, get a hybrid car, and jawbone with Sean Hannity’s call screener? I think the real inconvenient truth is, “we’re doomed.” **Not Done**

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(“*Think Global*” Continued from page 2)

philosophers and spiritual leaders united in the belief that underneath the biological competition, nature is comprised of a refined network in which co-operation is key.

More to the point, according to Sahtouris, co-operation is a necessary foundation for survival and success. After the hostile competition of young species, they learn to negotiate differences and work out co-operation schemes to their mutual benefit. According to Sahtouris, co-operation is a necessary stage for sustainable success. She has worked out her version of this Theory of Everything in her book, *EarthDance: Living Systems in Evolution* (iUniverse, 2000).

Sahtouris thus offers an encouraging viewpoint for humanity. All we have to do is take a good look at nature, which shows practical and effective examples of co-operation that we can incorporate

into business, government, international relations and throughout society, for the health and wealth of humanity.

“Earth is alive,” Sahtouris explains. “It is not a mechanical, hierarchical system, but an organic, self-organizing system. The whole universe is a living enterprise that organizes itself. It’s autopoietic, a definition of living entities as constantly creating themselves and their parts from within in relation to their environment. All healthy, living systems self-organize and maintain themselves by the same principles, whether as a single cell, your body, an ecosystem or a global human culture.”

That process is a continual dance in which individual and collective interests are equal partners. Sahtouris notes, “Each part of a living system has its own self-interest, but also works within the interest of the larger whole that contains it. In a mature system, every level

expresses its self-interest, so that negotiations are constantly happening towards co-operation.”

There is, as Darwin observed, interaction among individual interests in any biological setting, but it goes deeper than raw competition. That interaction is less a fight than a negotiation played out in the broader context of collective interests. And that process, according to Sahtouris, is the driving force behind evolution. “So self-interest is not a bad thing, unless there is not a larger community interest with which to negotiate.”

Dissolving boundaries is another lesson she learned from nature. Nature’s boundaries are connectors. Everything is connected to everything else; nothing is separated from the greater whole. Nature doesn’t choose between individual and collective interests. Yet humans

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## Green America

By Eric Anschutz, Walnut Creek

For many thoughtful Americans, our chief concerns have been this nation's militaristic foreign policy, our doctrine of preemptive war, and our saber-rattling against Iran and North Korea. But, worrisome as these issues are, the damaging effects of global warming deserve equal billing, and may in the long term be of even greater consequence. Former President Clinton recently put it this way: "There has never been a nation destroyed by terrorism alone, and it's not about to start now. But I think that climate change has the capacity to change the way all of us live on earth."

Today, the war in Iraq is contributing directly to global warming. Our "shock and awe" bombing at the war's outset produced massive burning and emissions, and that has been followed by continual explosions from both our own and enemy munitions. In addition, billions of gallons of fuel are consumed by our engines of war, and huge quantities of burning fuel have been released from torched oil wells and pipelines, resulting in massive emissions of greenhouse gases.

Beyond these direct effects, our focus on the war and the huge sums spent in Iraq, have diverted our attention from initiatives that can help create a greener America. One such casualty is the popular proposal for a major federal program aimed at freeing us from our addiction to fossil fuels. Various dubbing a New Manhattan Project or a Second Apollo Program, such an undertaking could not only move us toward a greener environment, but would, according to experts, create some three-million clean-energy jobs for American workers.

It is estimated that by investing just \$30 billion per year over the next ten years, an amount we spend every two or three months in Iraq, America could:

Develop advanced-technology vehicles and alternative fuels that would cut oil use by roughly 40 percent of total imports in 20 years. Further and more aggressive development of hybrid engines, hydrogen fuel cells and ethanol-based fuels is a matter of compelling urgency, too long delayed. Brazil has already shifted away from oil/carbon-based fuels through the use of sugarcane-based ethanol.

Build enough wind, solar, geothermal and other alternative power sources to supply 25 percent of our needs in just 20 years. Wind power is already cost-competitive with coal and natural gas, and solar is not far behind. With mass deployment of these clean technologies, costs would come down even further.

Create hundreds of thousands of jobs, including in inner-city communities, by equipping state and local government buildings with energy-efficient lighting and temperature-control equipment. Many of our universities are already turning their campus buildings "green." The University of Virginia School of Architecture (among others) has developed inexpensive "green" pre-fabricated housing suitable for use in rebuilding communities, such as in New Orleans, where FEMA has deployed fragile and ugly house-trailers by the tens of thousands, many of which stand unused.

Build high-performance "green" cities by investing in mass-transit, such as light rail and buses, and by rewarding "infill" development that restores blighted communities, including abandoned factories and warehouses.

The Chinese are already leading the world in the technology of "green" architecture for large buildings. They are also rushing to develop a world-class "green" diesel engine for passenger cars, as they pursue their goal of becoming technology exporters rather than importers. The 2008 Olympics, to be held in China, will provide a showcase for China's green technologies.

America continues to be blessed with many advantages. We are still the richest economy in the world. Our universities, particularly in science, are of unparalleled excellence. And the American high-tech community remains the world's center of vibrant creativity and innovation.

But these strengths, which allow us to live well, and with the illusion of endless well-being, are now threatened on a number of fronts. Notable weaknesses include ineffective programs of elementary and secondary education; an ever-growing federal budget deficit; an out-of-control balance-of-trade deficit (we buy more from abroad than we sell); a health-care system that saps our economy by denying or compromising care for many citizens; dependence on the Middle East, Africa and Latin America for oil; a war in Iraq that drains our spirits and resources; and a vulnerability to Islamic hatred and terrorism that we have no effective way of combating militarily.

Peace is the answer. By moving away from war, and toward negotiations and diplomacy, our resources, energies and spirit could be focused on the real problems that threaten our national security, rather than on a wasteful militarism based on bloody and counterproductive efforts to remake the world in our image.

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*("Going Local" Continued from page 3)*

**[Rooftop Resources Project](#)** - What kind of potential do urban rooftops (both residential and commercial) have for food-growing, energy production, and water collection? Given that current

policies, research, and building codes aren't geared toward the development of rooftop resources, BAR is leading a study to survey and develop a model for implementing rooftop gardens, renewable energy, and rainwater catchment systems. This study aims to

assess the feasibility of such projects by evaluating various obstacles to their development, determining what volumes of resources they could yield, and identifying economic and employment opportunities they could generate.

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## Chairman's Chat

By Bob Hanson, Co-Chair

Exciting things are happening at "your local voice for peace!" New members are joining at our farmer's market tables in Walnut Creek, Danville, Pleasant Hill and Orinda. Our forum committee has presented Dennis Kucinich, Ellen Tauscher, George Miller, Richard Heinberg and Rabbi Michael Lerner....with Amy Goodman coming on October 7th. Don't miss it! Tickets online and in the office.

All of these have been very well attended and brought us a good deal of publicity.

Mary Alice O'Connor, our executive, has just completed work on a peace calendar featuring the winners of this year's Art and Writing contest in full color...it's spectacular! She has lined-up a terrific bunch of volunteers, who come into the office on a regular basis. There are too many to name them all, but Joan Friedman deserves special recognition. She is responsible for the weekly emails listing upcoming events as well as our potluck-video nights.

Karen Allen has replaced Mariann Kessler as secretary. Ron Schmidt and I will stay on as co-chairs for the remainder of

this year, which ends June 30. Tom Conrad has agreed to take another year as treasurer and Dave Johnson has accepted the office of Vice-chair.

Finances continue to be a challenge, as we work toward being able to offer Mary Alice full-time employment, but we have had half a dozen or so members increase their yearly giving to the \$1,000 or greater level. Please consider increasing your contribution. It will be money well spent.

Please check out our newly improved website for more information on all our great projects: [www.mtdpc.org](http://www.mtdpc.org).

### Thursday October 26, 2006

#### 9/11: Press for Truth (84 min.)

Guest Speaker: Dr Paul Rea

Author of *Still Seeking the Truth About 9/11*

A small group of grieving families waged a tenacious battle against those who sought to bury the truth about 9/11—including, to their amazement, President Bush! This powerful story tells how they took on the greatest powers in Washington—and subsequently won.



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cates downplay it, perhaps for fear of fostering a paralyzing despair. But there is no getting around it: because humanity waited so long to take decisive action, we are now stuck with a certain amount of global warming and the climate changes it will bring—rising seas, fiercer heat, deeper droughts, stronger storms. The World Health Organization estimates that climate change is already helping to kill 150,000 people a year, mainly in Africa and Asia. That number is bound to rise as global warming intensifies in the years ahead.

Although scientists apply the neutral term "climate change" to all of these phenomena, "climate chaos" better conveys the abrupt, interconnected, wide-ranging consequences that lie in store. "It's a very appropriate term for the layperson," says Schellnhuber, a physicist who specializes in chaos theory. "I keep telling politicians that I'm not so concerned about a gradual climate change that may force farmers in Great Britain to plant different crops. I'm worried about triggering positive feedbacks that, in the worst case, could kick off some type of runaway greenhouse dynamics."

Among the reasons climate change is a bigger problem than terrorism, David King tells me, is that the problem is rooted in humanity's burning of oil, coal, and natural gas, "and people don't want to let that go." Which is understandable. These carbon-based fuels have powered civilization since the dawn of the industrial era, delivering enormous wealth, convenience, and well-being even as they overheated the atmosphere.

Ultimately, society must shift onto a new energy foundation based on alternative fuels, not only because of global warm-

ing but also because oil "will get harder and costlier to find" in the years ahead, says Ronald Oxburgh, the former chairman of the British arm of Royal Dutch Shell oil.

\*Note: The Action of the Month will return in November.

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are caught up in "either/or choices."

Sahtouris offers a striking example: "Take the capitalist/communist rivalry that played out for most of my lifetime. It reveals the fundamental flaw of an odd and ultimately impossible ideological choice: to build society on the basis of individual interest or on the basis of communal interest. Nature doesn't work like that."

It almost sounds like she's blaming human nature for our divisions, I say. She falls silent for a moment, and then clarifies: "From an evolutionary perspective, current global economics violates the fundamental principles by which all mature living systems are organized. Global economics is a hierarchical system where one level survives at the expense of another level. This top-down approach is never seen in healthy biological systems. In mature natural systems there are no authoritarian governments. What species is in charge in a rainforest? What part is in charge of your body? Imagine doing world politics in our bodies. Imagine the brain deciding not to allocate resources to certain organs, but keeping them to itself. You can't do world economics in your body. You can't have some organs exploiting the others. You would die."



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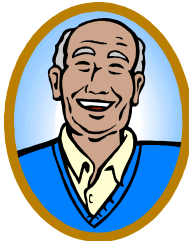
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**C A L E N D A R**

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Grandparents for Peace**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 10:00—12:00 Noon  
 Del Valle Club House, Rossmoor



**Peace Vigil, Fridays 3:30-4:30 PM**  
 Everyone Welcome!  
 Signs and Cheers provided.  
 Corner of Tice Valley Road &  
 Rossmoor Parkway, in front of the  
 Rossmoor Sign.  
 Call Bob Hanson, 944-3366.

**Peace Center Tabling**  
 2nd Sunday  
 Walnut Creek Farmers' Market  
 9:00-1:00 - 2-hour shifts  
**Volunteers needed.**  
**Call the Peace Center,**  
**925-933-7850.**

**Youth & The Military  
 Committee Meeting**  
 1st Monday - 7:00 p.m.  
 Peace Center Office  
**Volunteers needed.**  
**Call the Peace Center,**  
**925-933-7850.**

**October**

**Wednesday, October 4, 7:30 PM**  
**Free showing of Al Gore's "An  
 Inconvenient Truth"**  
 Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist  
 Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

**Saturday, October 7, 12:00 Noon**  
**Amy Goodman talks about her  
 new book, "Static: Government  
 Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the  
 People Who Fight Back"**  
 Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church,  
 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette

**Thursday, October 26 6:30 PM**  
**Videos for Peace**  
**9/11: Press for Truth (84 min.)**  
**Guest Speaker: Dr Paul Rea**  
 Peace Center—Potluck 6:30 PM,  
 Video 7:00 PM

**November**

**Wednesday, November 1, 7:00 PM**  
**"Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers",**  
**Invited Guest Speaker,**  
**Congressman George Miller**  
 Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist  
 Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek  
*Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers* takes  
 you inside the lives of soldiers, truck  
 drivers, widows and children who have  
 been changed forever as a result of  
 profiteering in the reconstruction of  
 Iraq.

**Congressional Contact  
 Information**

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